

ATTACHMENT A

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. Canceled

7. (Currently amended) A hydrocarbon desulfurization method which is characterized in that a hydrocarbon raw material is desulfurized in the presence of hydrogen with using ~~thea~~ desulfurizing agent described in claim 1 manufactured by a method comprising mixing a mixture containing a copper compound and a zinc compound with an aqueous solution of an alkali substance to prepare a precipitate, calcining the resultant precipitate, forming the calcined precipitate into a shaped form of a copper oxide - zinc oxide mixture, impregnating the shaped form with iron and/or nickel, calcining the impregnated form to produce a calcined oxide, and reducing the calcined oxide with hydrogen.

8. (Original) The hydrocarbon desulfurization method according to claim 7, wherein an amount of hydrogen which is such that the hydrogen/hydrocarbon raw material molar ratio is 0.0005 to 0.4 is present.

9. (Previously presented) The hydrocarbon desulfurization method according to claim 7, wherein desulfurization is performed at a pressure of 0.05 to 50 atm, a temperature of 100 to 400°C, and a space velocity (GHSV) of 200 to 10,000 h⁻¹.

10. (Original) The hydrocarbon desulfurization method according to claim 7, wherein the raw material hydrocarbon is town gas, and an amount of hydrogen is present so that the hydrogen/town gas molar ratio is 0.0005 to 0.4.

11. (Original) The town gas desulfurization method according to claim 10, wherein desulfurization is performed at a pressure of 0.05 to 50 atm, a temperature of 100 to 400°C, and a space velocity (GHSV) of 200 to 10,000 h⁻¹.

12. (Original) The town gas desulfurization method according to claim 11, wherein desulfurization is performed so that the sulfur content in the town gas is not more than 5 ppb (vol ppb).